

National Endowment for the Arts



2005 GUIDE



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Photo by Vance Jacobs

Chairman's Message

A question I encounter often as I travel across the country is, What is the NEA? The answer is that we are many things to many people. We have to be, because we exist to serve all Americans.

If you are affiliated with an arts organization, a state or local arts agency, or are yourself an artist, you may be intimately acquainted with us as a vital supporter of your creative contributions to American cultural life.

If you are a supporter of artistic offerings in your community, you may be well aware that the NEA awards more than 2,200 grants annually across the country, totaling nearly \$100 million.

Or you may be only vaguely aware that the National Endowment for the Arts exists – even though you may have enjoyed any number of museums; orchestras; theater, opera, and dance companies; educational and community outreach; or accessibility programs that have been made possible by an investment from the NEA.

This year, the NEA celebrates its 40th anniversary and our commitment to ensuring that all Americans have access to the pleasures and transformative experiences that the arts can provide.

This guide presents an overview of all the areas in which the NEA makes a difference: grantmaking and national initiatives, partnerships and research, accessibility and arts learning. What is the NEA? It is all these things and more, ensuring a nation in which artistic excellence is celebrated, supported, and available to all Americans. Because a great nation deserves great art.

Dana Gioia


Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

about us

The National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

The NEA awards more than \$100 million annually, investing in every state. The Arts Endowment has played a substantial role in the development of folk arts, dance, theater, literature, opera, and other arts that Americans now enjoy.

Since its establishment, the NEA has awarded more than 120,000 grants, including early support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition, the Sundance Film Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Spoleto Festival USA, PBS's *Great Performances* series, and the American Film Institute. For four decades, the Arts Endowment has encouraged creativity through support of performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other arts projects throughout the country.



The Nancy Hanks Center at the Old Post Office Building in Washington, DC—home to the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Monterey Jazz Festival, the longest running jazz festival in the world, has received support from the NEA over the years for performances and educational activities. Shown is jazz musician Gary Burton playing with the festival's High School All-Star Band in 2003. Photo courtesy of the Monterey Jazz Festival

National Endowment for the Arts Funding

The National Endowment for the Arts awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations. In addition, it awards non-matching individual fellowships in literature and honorary fellowships in jazz and the folk and traditional arts. Forty percent of the Arts Endowment's funds go to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and the six regional arts organizations in support of arts projects in thousands of communities across the country.

All applications to the Arts Endowment are reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit. Applications generally receive three independent levels of review. First, they are reviewed by independent, national panels of artists and other arts experts. Panels make recommendations that are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts.

The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's advisory body, comprises nationally and internationally renowned artists, distinguished scholars, and arts patrons appointed by the President, and members of Congress. The Council reviews and makes recommendations on the applications. Those recommendations for funding are sent to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chairman reviews those applications and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

The following information provides an overview of our funding categories and other activities. Deadlines for funding opportunities are found in the back of this guide. For details and our application guidelines, please visit our Web site at www.arts.gov

grants for



Ballet Memphis received an NEA grant in 2003 to perform Karl Condon's *South of Everywhere*, which explores growing up white in the rural South during the civil rights era. This piece was part of *As the Spirit Moves You*, a three-part program focusing on aspects of Southern culture. Photo courtesy of Ballet Memphis

arts projects

Grants for Arts Projects supports exemplary projects in dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting (including multidisciplinary art forms), theater, and visual arts.

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations; units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply. Applicants may be arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, school districts, and other organizations that can help advance the goals of the Arts Endowment.

To be eligible, an applicant organization must:

- Be nonprofit, tax-exempt.
- Have a three-year history of programming.
- Meet reporting requirements on any previous Arts Endowment awards.

Generally, an organization is limited to one application per year under Grants for Arts Projects. Depending on the particular category, limited exceptions may exist for consortium projects, fiscal agents that apply on behalf of other organizations, and parent organizations such as universities or cultural complexes that apply on behalf of separately identifiable and independent components.

Assistance is not available for general operating or seasonal support; the creation of new organizations; the construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities; or directly for individual elementary or secondary schools.

The Grants for Arts Projects guidelines outline support that is available in the following categories:

Access to Artistic Excellence: To foster and preserve excellence in the arts and provide access to the arts for all Americans. This category encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our diverse cultural heritage, and makes the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country. Typical projects include the commissioning and development of new work, the presentation of performances or exhibitions at home or on tour, the documentation and preservation of significant art works or cultural traditions, the publication and dissemination of work important to the field, and the professional training of artists. The Arts Endowment is particularly interested in projects that reach and involve new audiences.

Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$100,000.



The Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Idaho used an NEA Challenge America grant to start a new local event, Dos Culturas, to celebrate the Mexican heritage of many community members.

Photo courtesy of Sun Valley Center for the Arts

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track

Review Grants: To enable organizations, particularly those that are small or mid-sized, to extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations—those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. An expedited application review allows applicants to learn whether they have been recommended for a grant more quickly than in the Arts Endowment's other categories.

In this category the focus is on simple, straightforward local projects that involve experienced professional artists and arts professionals. Projects may include festivals, exhibits, readings, performances, screenings, or broadcasts that feature guest artists in community settings; professionally directed public arts projects such as murals, sculptures, or environmental art; cultural district revitalization; cultural tourism; and planning for the redesign of existing spaces for cultural activities.

All grants are for \$10,000.

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth: This category funds projects that help children and youth acquire appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art, and may take place in school-based or community-based settings. The focus is on children and youth in the general age range of five through 18 years old.

All projects must include the following components:

- 1) the opportunity for students and their teachers to experience exemplary works of art, in live form wherever possible;
- 2) study of the art experienced, including the acquisition of skills for practicing the art form where appropriate;
- 3) the performance/making of art within the discipline(s) studied; and
- 4) student assessment according to national, state, or local arts education standards.

Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Apprentices apply plasticene details to a wood pattern as part of the Sloss Furnace Association's summer apprentice program, supported by an NEA Learning in the Arts grant, in Birmingham, Alabama.
Photo courtesy of Sloss Furnace Association



Literature Fellowships

Through Literature Fellowships awarded to published creative writers and translators of exceptional talent, the Arts Endowment advances its goal of encouraging and supporting artistic creativity and preserving our diverse cultural heritage. Literature Fellowships in creative writing enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. These non-matching grants are for \$20,000. This program operates on a two-year cycle with fellowships in prose available one year and fellowships in poetry available the next.

Since 1990, 47 of the 67 recipients of the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and Pulitzer Prize in fiction and poetry have received NEA Literature Fellowships, often 10 to 20 years earlier, leaving no doubt about the artistic excellence and ability of our grantees.

Literature Fellowships also are given for translation projects, enabling recipients to translate works of prose, poetry, or drama from other languages into English. The art of literary translation has made available to the American public some of the most important writing in the world, from Homer to Gabriel García Márquez. Non-matching grants are awarded depending upon the artistic excellence and merit of the project, in the amounts of \$10,000 or \$20,000.

The Literature Fellowships are the only competitive, non-nominated awards that the Arts Endowment gives to individual artists.

Lifetime Honors

On behalf of the American people, the federal government recognizes outstanding achievement in the arts through the National Medal of Arts, a Presidential award; NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships; and NEA National Heritage Fellowships. Information on nominating candidates for these awards can be found on the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the federal government. It is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States.

Since 1985, more than 200 extraordinary patrons and artists in the fields of visual, performing, and literary arts have been honored. With this medal, the President recognizes the wealth and depth of creative expression of America's artists. Annually, a vast number of nominations are submitted from citizens across the country for consideration by the National Council on the Arts, which in turn submits its recommendations to the White House.

The **NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship** is the highest honor that our government bestows upon jazz musicians. These fellowships are given in recognition that this magnificent art form, so profoundly based in American culture, is one of America's greatest gifts to the world. Non-matching fellowships of \$25,000 each are awarded annually. The awards are given in the following categories: rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, pianist, vocalist, or arranger/composer. In addition, one award is given to a jazz advocate who has made a major contribution to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of jazz, such as a writer, patron, or presenter.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships recognize the recipients' artistic excellence and accomplishments, and support their continuing contributions to America's folk and traditional arts. As part of its efforts to honor and preserve our nation's diverse cultural heritage, the National Endowment for the Arts annually awards non-matching fellowships of \$20,000 each. In addition, one fellowship, named after noted folklorist and former NEA Folk & Traditional Arts Director Bess Lomax Hawes, is presented to those who have made a major contribution to the excellence, vitality, and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts through teaching, collecting, advocacy, or preservation work.



2004 NEA National Heritage Fellow Koko Taylor performs at the annual celebratory concert in Washington, DC.
Photo by Michael G. Stewart

national initiatives

National Initiatives are model programs of indisputable artistic merit and broad national reach. Through these initiatives, the American people will have the opportunity to celebrate American creativity and experience the best of its culture.

OPERATION HOMECOMING



Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience is a unique literary program aimed at preserving the stories and reflections of U.S. military personnel and their families. In coordination with all four branches of the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense, the Arts Endowment is sponsoring writing workshops for troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq and their families at military installations throughout the country. Taught by some of America's most distinguished writers, many of whom are war veterans themselves,

these workshops will help the troops share their stories with current and future generations.

The Arts Endowment also is collecting submissions of writing by active personnel and their families on its Web site, the best of which will be published in an anthology of wartime writing. The deadline for submitting work is March 31, 2005.

Shakespeare in American Communities is a nationwide tour bringing professional theater productions of Shakespeare and related educational activities to Americans in small and mid-sized communities throughout the country. The largest tour of Shakespeare in American history, this initiative also is bringing Shakespeare productions to military bases through an unprecedented partnership with the Department of Defense.

In addition to performances, the Arts Endowment created 25,000 educational resource kits for teachers, featuring a teacher's guide with lesson plans; a recitation contest booklet; a timeline poster; Fun with Shakespeare brochures for the students; an audio CD with recitations and interviews with noted actors; and two educational videos.

In 2004, the second phase of the initiative began: **Shakespeare for a New Generation**. In 2004-2005, 21 professional theater companies will perform in each of their home regions for students from at least 10 middle and high schools. In the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 40 additional companies will present performances for students. By May 2005, more than 400 communities in all 50 states will have been reached.

Top photo: Author Richard Bausch talks with Staff Sergeant Christine Batti during an Operation: Homecoming workshop at Fort Drum, New York.
Photo by Betty Doherty, US Army MWR

Bottom photo: The Macbeths (Remi Sandri and Kathleen McCall) have murder in mind in the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's tour of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to military bases.
Photo by Phil Scarsbrook





Some of the greatest jazz musicians the world has ever known—all NEA Jazz Masters—were brought together by the National Endowment for the Arts for a historic reunion luncheon in New York City on January 23, 2004.

Photo by Tom Pich

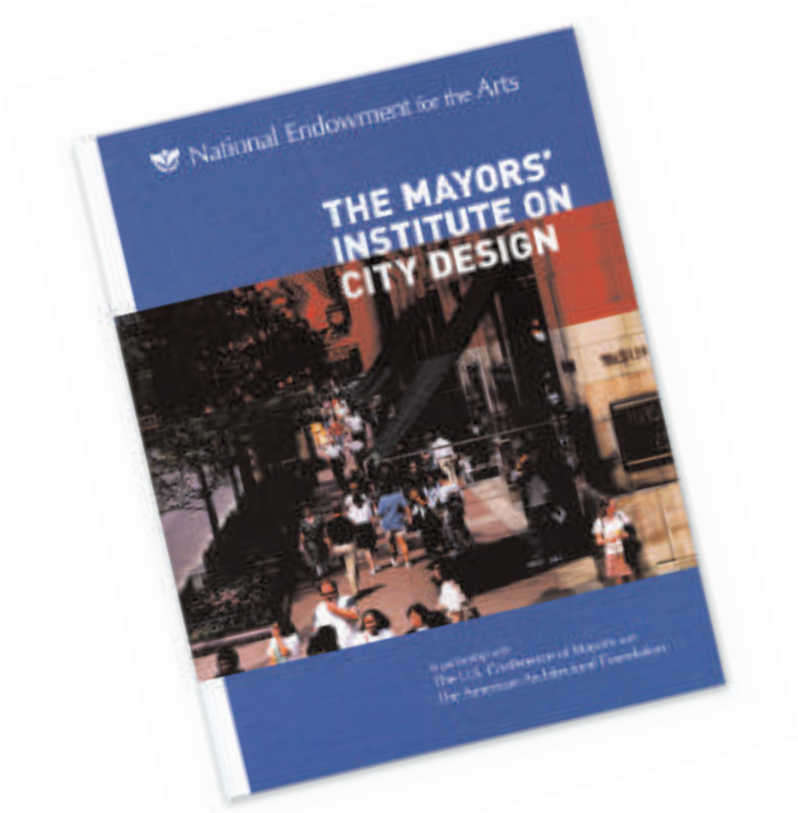


The Arts Endowment is expanding the reach of its **NEA Jazz Masters** initiative by broadening public recognition of the NEA Jazz Masters, enhancing the public's knowledge of jazz, and placing a brighter spotlight on these great musicians and their life's work.

In addition to expanding the number of NEA Jazz Masters awards, the Arts Endowment is producing programs of music and interviews with NEA Jazz Masters for both radio and television. The Arts Endowment already has collaborated with the Verve Music Group on a commemorative two-CD set of recordings by NEA Jazz Masters.

A 50-state national tour of NEA Jazz Masters is also being planned for 2005-06, sponsored by Verizon. Each NEA Jazz Master engagement will include educational activities such as master classes, meet-the-artist sessions, lecture/demonstrations, open rehearsals, or pre- or post-performance discussions with the artists.

Finally, a new jazz program has been developed in partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center and with support from the Verizon Foundation: **NEA Jazz in the Schools**. NEA Jazz in the Schools will be a five-unit, Web-based curriculum and DVD toolkit that will explore jazz as an indigenous American art form and as a means for exploring American history. The Web site and toolkits will be available to teachers in September 2005.



Leadership Initiatives

The Arts Endowment takes an active role in developing and carrying out hallmark projects of national significance in the arts. The following are examples of the type of initiatives the NEA undertakes:

The Arts on Radio and Television supports projects for radio and television arts programs that are intended for national broadcast. Through this category, the National Endowment for the Arts seeks to make the excellence and diversity of the arts widely available to the American public. Grants generally range from \$20,000 to \$200,000.

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is an Arts Endowment leadership initiative established in 1986 that provides an opportunity for mayors and design professionals to work together to address civic design and development issues related to their respective cities.

The Save America's Treasures program was created—through a collaboration of the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and National Endowment for the Arts—to protect the nation's threatened cultural resources. The program provides funding to nonprofit organizations for the preservation or conservation of nationally significant collections of cultural artifacts and works of art.

nea partners

State & Regional. In partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six regional arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts provides federal support for projects that benefit local communities. The Partnership Agreements for the state arts agencies include arts education, arts in underserved communities, and Challenge America components. The regional arts organizations, each representing a geographic grouping of states, assist the Arts Endowment in distributing funds nationally. Those Partnership Agreements include NEA Regional Touring Initiative and Challenge America components.

Federal Partnerships. The NEA works with more than 20 other federal agencies on projects that provide opportunities for thousands of Americans to experience quality arts programming throughout the country. These joint projects help to expand the reach and impact of federal arts dollars, and provide a national model for the types of partnerships the NEA encourages at the state and local levels. These partnerships include initiatives with agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Defense.

International. The National Endowment for the Arts collaborates with other funders to bring the benefits of international exchange to arts organizations, artists, and audiences nationwide. The Arts Endowment's support of international activities showcases U.S. arts abroad and broadens the scope of experience of American artists. International partnerships help increase worldwide recognition of the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts of the United States, and help American artists and arts organizations develop international ties that strengthen the many art forms of the United States.

Young fiddler Clay Sutton plays at the Bluff Mountain Festival in Madison County, North Carolina, as part of the North Carolina Art Council's new music initiatives, supported through the NEA Partnership Agreement with the Council.
Photo by Cedric N. Chatterley





Publications

In order to better communicate to the public the exemplary work the NEA supports and provides, the Communications Office works with other agency offices to create publications, free to the public, that highlight successful projects and programs. These publications can be ordered on the NEA Web site, www.arts.gov.

Recent publications include *Imagine! Introducing Your Child to the Arts*, which includes activities and suggestions for parents in literature, dance, music, theater, visual arts, folk arts, and media arts to interact with their children ages 3-8 years old; and a booklet on the Mayors' Institute on City Design initiative, including a thorough overview of the Institute, an overview by founder Joe Riley, an urban case study, testimonials from program alumni, and a listing of all Institute participants over its 18-year history.

Research

The Office of Research and Analysis (ORA) supports the Chairman and NEA staff with statistical and other information about the agency's applications and awards, including grantee and applicant profiles, the distribution of awards by state and artistic discipline, and analysis of overall trends in NEA funding. One of ORA's major projects is a geographic database that provides a comprehensive picture of the broad reach of NEA-supported activities.

ORA also issues periodic public reports on significant topics affecting artists and arts organizations. The office's most recent reports include *2002 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, a national survey that is sponsored by ORA every five years, which measures participation in arts activities through attendance at live events, watching or listening through broadcast and recorded media, and personal performance or creation of art; and *Reading at Risk*, which presents the results from the literature segment of the *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*. The survey asked more than 17,000 adults if during the previous 12 months they had read any novels, short stories, poetry, or plays in their leisure time that were not required for work or school. The report extrapolates and interprets data on literary reading and compares them with results from similar surveys carried out in 1982 and 1992.



Elders at the Golden Age Club, Milwaukee County Department on Aging's senior meal site, enjoy a mixture of seated and standing movement as part of Wisconsin organization Danceworks' 50+ Initiative, a series of classes, outreach activities, and residency programs in the arts for older adults. This is one of many accessibility projects and initiatives supported by the NEA.

Photo by Timothy Brown

Other Arts Endowment Activities

The Office for AccessAbility was established in 1976 as the advocacy and technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment for people with disabilities, older Americans, veterans, and people living in institutions. The office works in myriad ways to assist the Arts Endowment and its grantees in making arts programs more available to underserved segments of our citizenry.

Through the *Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act of 1975* (20 U.S.C. 971), which is administered by the Arts Endowment, the agency provides insurance coverage for objects in international exhibitions. The authorized limit for the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program was increased in 2003 from \$5 billion to \$8 billion.

Over the last few years, the National Endowment for the Arts has been conducting **grant workshops** across the country to provide valuable guidance on how local arts organizations can improve their chances of winning a competitive grant from the NEA. The workshops are done in cooperation with Members of Congress, who act as host, and with organizational help from state arts agencies. The goal of the workshops is to extend federal support of the arts into smaller communities and more rural areas that might not normally apply for NEA grants.

DEADLINES

Grants for Arts Projects

Access to Artistic Excellence

There are two application deadlines. The types of projects eligible under each vary according to the field/discipline of the project as outlined below. For further information, contact the staff for the appropriate field/discipline or view the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov:

Field/Discipline	Application Postmark Deadline: March 14, 2005 Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2006	Application Postmark Deadline: August 15, 2005 Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2006
Dance 202/682-5739	Commissions, Regional/National Tours, Home Performances, Presentations, Residencies, Services to the Field	Outreach, Preservation, Media and Technology
Design 202/682-5796	Innovation	Stewardship
Folk & Traditional Arts 202/682-5678 or 682-5726	Presentation of Living Cultural Heritage, Touring, Media	Heritage, Preservation, Outreach, Services to the Field
Literature 202/682-5771	Literary Publishing	Audience Development, Professional Development
Local Arts Agencies 202/682-5586	Services to the Field, Subgranting for Constituent Service Activities, Cultural Planning	Performing Arts Events/Readings/Screenings/ Broadcasts/Visual Arts Exhibitions, Artist Residencies/Commissions, Documentation/Conservation of Public and Monumental Art, Subgranting for Constituent Programming Activities
Media Arts: Film/Radio/Television 202/682-5742	Exhibition, Film/Video Festivals, Distribution, Preservation	Workshops/Conferences/ Residencies, Facilities Access, Production, Publications, Services to the Field
Museums 202/682-5576	Special Exhibitions, Residencies, Commissions, Public Art, Services to the Field	Conservation, Documentation, Collections, Public Programs

Field/Discipline	Application Postmark Deadline: March 14, 2005 Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2006	Application Postmark Deadline: August 15, 2005 Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2006
Music Organizations with names that begin A through L 202/682-5590 Organizations with names that begin M through Z 202/682-5487	Performances, Presentations, Commissions, Residencies, Professional Development, Services to the Field	Domestic Touring, Outreach, Recordings, Preservation, Intergenerational Education Projects
Musical Theater 202/682-5509	Creation of New Work, 2005–06 Musical Theater Production	2006–07 Musical Theater Production, Community- Based/Outreach, Training, Preservation, Services to the Field
Opera 202/682-5600	ALL Opera Projects	N/A
Presenting 202/682-5658	Artist Communities and Residencies, Training for Artists, Creation, Commissioning, Touring, Presentation	Services to Artists and Arts Organizations, Preservation, Publications, Activities for Underserved Communities
Theater Organizations with names that begin A through H 202/682-5509 Organizations with names that begin I through Q 202/682-5511 Organizations with names that begin R through Z 202/682-5020	Creation of New Work, 2005–06 Theater Production	2006–07 Theater Production, Community-Based/Outreach, Training, Preservation, Services to the Field
Visual Arts 202/682-5555	Exhibitions, Residencies, Publications, Commissions, Public Art	Conservation, Documentation, Services to the Field, Public Programs

Grants for Arts Projects

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants

Application Postmark Deadline: June 1, 2005

Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2006

For information, contact the staff at 202/682-5700.

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

Application Postmark Deadline: June 13, 2005

Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2006

For information, contact the Learning in the Arts staff for the field/discipline below that is most appropriate for your project:

Design, Literature, Media Arts, Museums, Visual Arts	202/682-5521
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Folk & Traditional Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Presenting (including multidisciplinary projects)	202/682-5690
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Music organizations with names that begin A through L, Musical Theater, Opera, Theater	202/682-5688
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Dance, Music organizations with names that begin M through Z	202/682-5044
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Literature Fellowships

Creative Writing Fellowships

Application Postmark Deadline: March 1, 2005

Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2006

Translation Projects

Application Postmark Deadline: January 9, 2006

Earliest Project Start Date: November 1, 2006

For information, contact the Literature staff at 202/682-5034.

Lifetime Honors

The National Medal of Arts

Nomination Deadline: April 11, 2005

(only online nominations accepted)

For information, contact the staff at 202/682-5434

NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships

Nomination Postmark Deadline: January 31, 2006

For information, contact the Music staff at 202/682-5438.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships

Nomination Postmark Deadline: October 1, 2005

For information, contact the Folk & Traditional Arts staff at 202/682-5428.

Leadership Initiatives

The Arts on Radio and Television

Application Postmark Deadline: September 9, 2005

Earliest Project Start Date: May 1, 2006

For information, contact the Arts Endowment's Media Arts staff at 202/682-5738.

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National Endowment for the Arts

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Additional copies of this publication can be ordered on the NEA Web site: **www.arts.gov**.



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A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.



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